

Good Samaritan Center
An Agency of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas,
San Antonio, Texas

ANNUAL REPORT
DECEMBER 2002

This year, the Good Samaritan Center celebrated **51 years of service** to residents of the near west side of San Antonio; one of our community's most impoverished areas. Though the families in this neighborhood are challenged daily by the devastation wrought by poverty, substance abuse and violence, their resilience and faith endures. Witnessing their struggles, their optimism and their perseverance increases our resolve **to serve our neighbor and be a resource for our community**. This, the mission of the Good Samaritan Center, is met through the aggressive pursuit of three ideals.

Youth challenged by pervasive gang violence, substance abuse and criminal behavior will develop personal and social responsibility and life skills that foster self-esteem and self-reliance.

Children will grow into healthy, intelligent, contributing members of society through the promotion of their physical, social and cognitive development.

Adults will have access to the educational and vocational services that will enable their pursuit of self-sufficiency.

By maintaining this vision of our neighborhood partners, the Good Samaritan Center has become a trusted friend and a sure resource for those we serve and, **as the principal social outreach for the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, we feel it is our privilege to willingly and enthusiastically respond.**

The last year has been one of significant change in the life and programming of the Good Samaritan Center. The following highlights illustrate the advances we have worked hard to achieve.

- With the renovation of our facility completed in 2001 and the environmental playground, walking track and landscaping completed this year, the Good Samaritan Center shines inside and out. To commemorate our grand reopening, we held a Rededication Celebration on May 11th, 2002, complete with a blessing, music,

food and fun for 350 guests and neighbors. The beauty of the our center is appreciated by many in this community and was recognized for its architectural style with the Mayor's Selection Design Award.

- In September 2002, our Child Development Services underwent a 3-year accreditation review by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and passed with flying colors! The Good Samaritan Center's childcare program is currently the only **NAEYC accredited** childcare center in San Antonio providing services to children of poverty. Last year, our dedicated teachers and staff provided a high quality childcare program to 201 children.
- We were awarded a \$1.2 million Workplace Investment Act (WIA) grant by the Alamo Workforce Development, Inc. The project, called the A2A Program, will provide comprehensive services to 700 at-risk youth ages 14 – 18, in order to increase their academic achievement and prepare them for employment success.
- The Youth Services Department continues to attract the largest segment of our client population (1,211 youth last year) for innovative programs and support services. The MODELO program, a youth mentoring program now is its second year of funding, has succeeded in so many ways. In June, 20 youth and 4 GSC staff went to Washington, DC where they toured the Washington National Cathedral with the Right Rev. John Bryson Chane, visited several universities and national monuments, participated in leadership development with Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, our district representative and toured the Holocaust Museum. Youth involved in our Literary Arts program practiced their reading, comprehension and creative writing skills, twice weekly, in addition to writing and publishing a book of poetry. Many of our youth give back to their community by volunteering with Habitat for Humanity or visiting patients of Alzheimer's disease in an assisted living facility.
- Through the generosity of Camp Capers and with help from churches throughout the Diocese, interested individuals and local businesses, the Good Samaritan Center was able to outfit and send 102 children to Camp Capers last summer, more than doubling the number of campers from the previous summer. The stories they tell, the bonds of friendship they built and the lasting smiles on their faces have inspired us to break that record in the Summer of 2003.

- Enrollment in Senior and Older Adult programs continues to increase, with seniors utilizing the dedicated facility space at GSC. A new program targeting a previously underserved population, homebound frail elderly, was initiated. Project HOGAR, a provided home-based case management services and outreach services to 133 seniors last year, exceeding the targeted goal of 100 by 33%. Though funded for just one year as a demonstration project, Project HOGAR has been incorporated into the scope of comprehensive services offered to seniors through Centro de Amistad, GSC's senior center. Last year, 200 seniors age 55 and older participated in case management, health promotion and education classes, field trips, socialization activities and diabetic screening.
- Comprehensive services have been assembled for neighborhood adults pursuing self-sufficiency, including GED and ESL instruction, case management and an emergency food pantry.

The Good Samaritan Center's service area is primarily the near west side of San Antonio. Most of our clients live in the six census tracts surrounding the center, which according to the 2000 Census, had an aggregate population of 35,592. 97% are Mexican Americans and a single parent heads 41.2% of all households with children. For the year ending June 30, 2002, the Good Samaritan Center served 2371 individuals and their families from over 1,300 households in this target area. 70% of these families lived on less than \$20,000 per year.

The following indicates a fair distribution of agency resources by age group.

Age	Number Served	Percentage
0 – 5	184	7%
6 – 17	1126	48%
18 - 21	234	10%
22 – 34	289	13%
35 – 54	280	11%
55 – 84	235	10%
85+	23	1%

The Good Samaritan Center continues to be what it has always been – a source of hope and renewal for a severely impoverished area. The Diocese, the Board and the staff are enriched and strengthened as we witness the daily embodiment of God's love and blessings at the Good Samaritan Center.